

Intermediary Foundation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

ATTENDED

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Attn: His Excellency E.J. Kuipers Minister van

Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport, Postbus

20350 2500 EJ Den Haag

Subject: the health care system Mierlo,

June 28, 2023

His Excellency,

Staff in nursing homes in the Netherlands frequently forget medication or give the wrong dose when the family says something about it, they are often dismissed by the nursing home management as querulous or referred to a complaints line that later turns out not to be objective. The cause is often based on communication problems, much of which can also be attributed to communication skills among nursing home staff. One has to deal with fragility of teams, by failure of a staff member this immediately has major consequences for the other staff members. The gaps are often filled by inexperienced staff. As a result, staff face frustration in work. Communication problems can also occur due to lack of mutual coordination between the manager and staff. Care should not always be the closing item in helping the elderly and sick. Complaining to the IGZ does not seem to work either. It is slow and once the inspection visits nursing homes, it is "the butcher who does his inspects its own meat". This shortcoming must be addressed through training and staff with experience and a change in culture within the nursing homes in combination with other policies by politicians in The Hague.

The basis for the government's public health mission lies in international treaties and, in particular, in Article 22(1) of the Constitution, "The government shall take measures to promote public health. In the Netherlands, health care is not provided by the government (with the exception of public health care) but by private health care providers.

The government is "systemically responsible," that is, bears responsibility for quality, affordability and accessibility of care. The quality of the care actually provided is primarily the responsibility of the healthcare provider itself; the government ensures that it meets certain standards. The IGZ is charged with that supervision. The IGZ is part of the Ministry of Health Welfare and Sport (VWS).

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) covers a wide range of rights, including rights to adequate food, water, sanitation, clothing, housing and medical care, as well as social protection that covers situations beyond a person's control, such as disability, widowhood, unemployment and old age. Mothers and children receive special care. Article 25 of that declaration sets out a number of conditions, to which

conditions the Dutch State has promised to abide by. Those currently in power will do everything in their power to maintain the status quo, since that serves their own interests the most. Especially the powerful trade union power monopolies do great harm to the public. Thus, they are suspect in advance because they are branded as the sheepskin-clad enforcers of a challenged social system.

The issue of and about the

health care in 1994 "plan Simons" was in the spotlight, and it still is in 2023.

National and local health issues remain unabated in addition to general and partial issues. The latter, unfortunately, is not always adhered to. An impressive edifice has emerged whose layout is extremely opaque, "the patchwork of health care." This opacity has not diminished over the years, despite the many attempts to clarify it. The sharply increased cost of medical and health care, along with doubts about its actual efficiency, are also problems of the first order. The solution to achieve a better alignment of mutual functions is sometimes a matter of better management, sometimes of different policies and governance, and sometimes of better programming and setting clear priorities. Sometimes these problems lie in the political sphere or in financial arrangements. Again, reality is the pendulum of contradiction and shows us that solutions are not implemented or not timely or sometimes not addressed. In the reasoning of the people's vision, this means that the choice of the instrument to be used to promote health care is "wrong."

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The medical system from A to Z is controlled by financial interests of the pharmaceutical industry. Numerous patient organizations, scientific magazines, medical journals, studies and opinion leaders are sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry to influence prescribing behavior. The appearance of bonafides by the Dutch government with the various reports on health care act as cover

Research "On our health" the need for stronger public health care, by Council for Public Health & Society, Publication 2023-03, ISBN: 978-90-5732-176-4.

for predatory and profit-driven criminal practices. Health care based purely on cost-benefit analysis in a modern society where only consumption and profit matter, the risk of economic euthanasia is enormous. The strong aging of the population and an economic recession combined with crisis could exacerbate this trend.

(*) Copy letter Hans J. Simons, September 22, 1993, reference: BB-U-933723

IFUD of Human Rights
the President
J.P. van den Wittenboer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J.P. van den Wittenboer', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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E L
Z I J N
V O L K S
G E Z O N
H E I D
C U L T U

Mr. J.P. van den Wittenboer
P.O. Box 324
5660 AH GELDROP

Our reference
BB-U-933723

Information from
J.Penninga

Dial
070-3407356

Rijswijk

Subject
The health care system

Bijlage(en)

Your letter
22 SEP. 1993
August 24, 1993

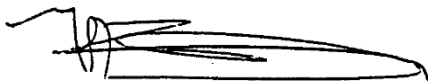
Dear Mr. Van den Wixenboer,

I read your letter of August 24, 1993 with interest. In particular, the results of your study caar the shortcomings and possible improvements in the current health care system attracted my attention. You express therein blk of your great involvement bt this subject.

As you know, the policy of the Cabinet is also aimed at improving the functioning of the health care system. However, this is not something that can be done by politicians alone; all citizens ztn therebt paxij. I therefore find it necessary that citizens also actively and critically participate. Contributions such as yours - even if they are critical in tone - are therefore always welcome for the further development and testing of the policy.

Sincerely,

The Secretary of State for Welfare, Health and Culture,



Hans J. Simons